



Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee

Lee Ann Labecki
Executive Director
717-772-2368

Senator Elisabeth J. Baker

Chairwoman

Senate Box 203020 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-3020 • 717-787-7428

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee

FROM: Senator Elisabeth J. Baker

DATE: June 11, 2007

SUBJECT: Public Hearing – Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Senate and House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committees will hold a **joint public hearing on Tuesday, June 12, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Senate Majority Caucus Room, in the Main Capitol.**

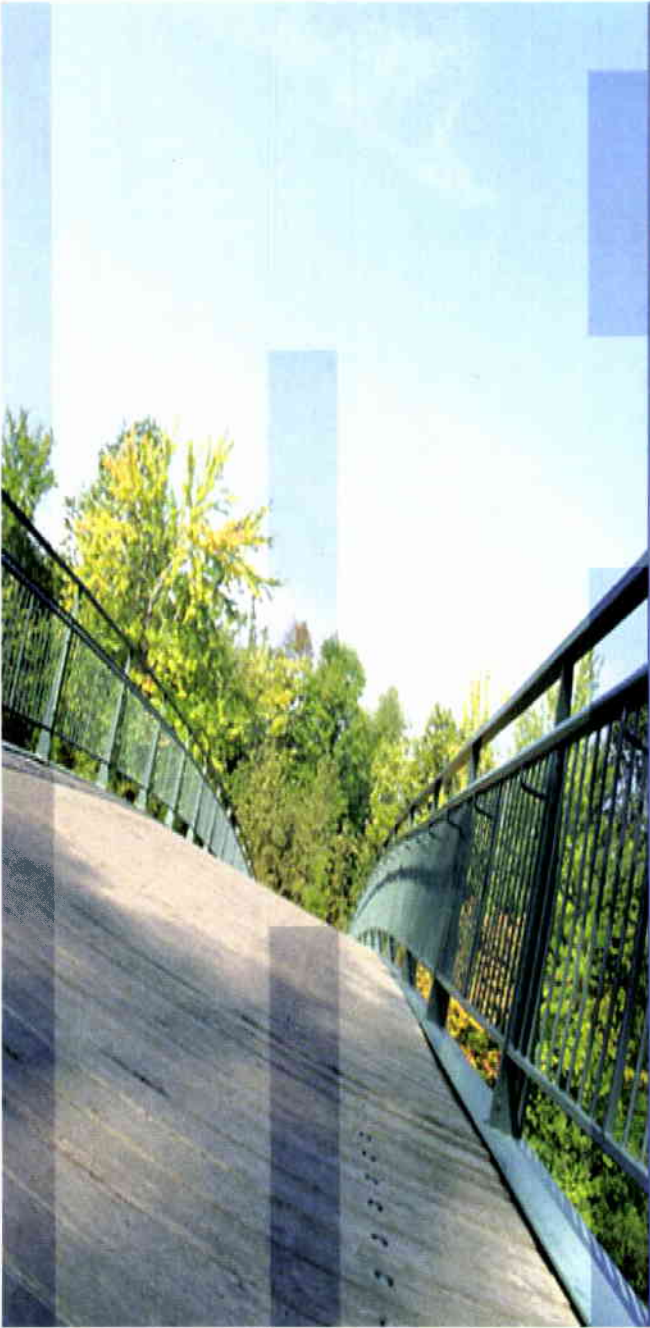
The purpose of the hearing is to consider testimony on a proposal to provide funding to sustain services and outreach to veterans provided by service officers employed by veteran service organizations including The American Legion, AMVETS, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and the Disabled American Veterans.

The proposal will enable these veterans' groups to keep the service officers programs staffed with Veterans' Administration certified personnel needed to provide Pennsylvania's veterans with the outreach and support that they deserve to access federal veterans' benefits. Presently, nineteen states fund service officer programs through legislation and a state appropriation.

Your participation is requested to receive testimony from the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and the Veterans Service Organizations.

Please contact Donna Stchur at 787-7428 to confirm your participation.

pc: Senator Dinniman, Minority Chair



Pennsylvania's Veterans' Service Organizations

**Helping Veterans to...
Bridge the Gap**

**Appropriations Request
PA Veterans Service Officers - FY 2007-2008**



Background

Problem

- Traditional role of PA Veterans' Service Organizations has been to provide and fund trained and accredited Veterans' Service Officers to represent veterans and their families.
- The goal is to assist veterans in obtaining federal veterans' services and benefits.
- More than 50 percent of the veterans receiving VA Compensation or pension benefits in Pennsylvania are represented by a Veterans' Service Organization.
- The Veterans' Service Organizations have always regarded this role as a primary mission and duty.
- The increasing number of veterans seeking benefits and decreasing resources are now risking the provision of service officers by veterans' groups.

Program

- Service Officers from veterans' organizations are currently funded through dues and fund raising projects supported by organization members.
- Collectively, the costs to the state veterans' organizations exceeds \$1.8 million annually and is taking funding away from other programs.
- Pennsylvania ranks fourth in the nation for the number of service members serving on active duty since August 1990.
- Based on most estimates, at least one in four of today's veterans returning from combat seeks VA Compensation for service connected injuries or illnesses. This is an increase over the traditional average.
- PA Veterans' Service Organizations have struggled to keep the service officer programs fully funded and staffed with trained personnel due to cost increases. Growing service demands will place a higher burden on existing service officers which could lead to staff turnover.
- With low starting salaries of \$21,500, it is very difficult to attract and to retain Veterans' Service Officers. Staff turnover means that less effective services are provided for Pennsylvania's veterans.
- Additionally, it takes several years for a new Veterans' Service Officer to become fully trained, accredited, and effective.

"This request for \$2.2m in funding equals \$2 of support for each of Pennsylvania's 1.1 million veterans."

"Every dollar secured in federal benefits...results in a reduced reliance on state benefit programs."



Request

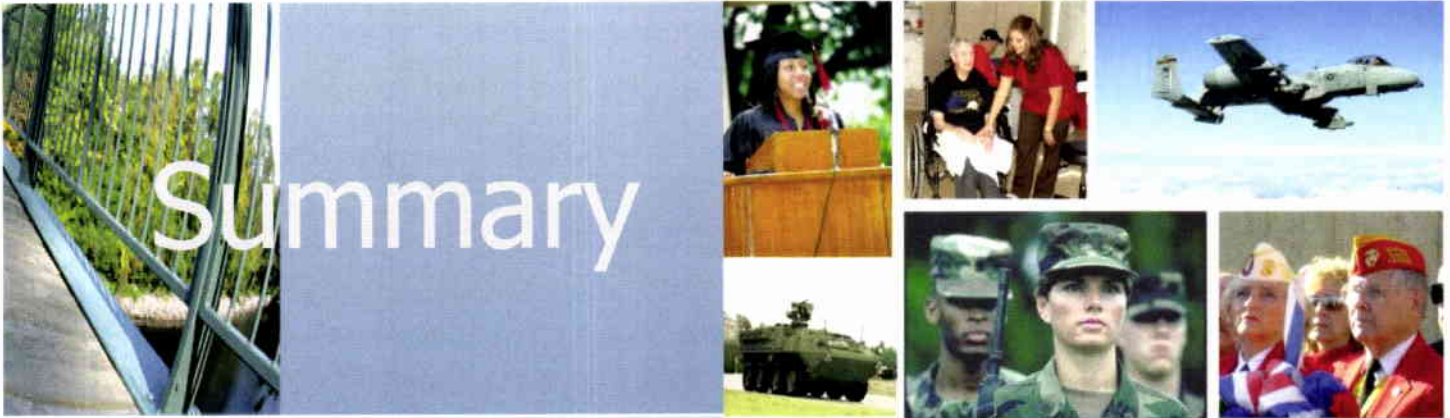
- Pennsylvania's four service organizations – The American Legion, Pennsylvania Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and the Pennsylvania Department of American Veterans – have joined together to seek state funding for the Veterans Service Officer program.
- Adequately funding and staffing these Veterans' Service Office programs is the number one legislative priority of the Pennsylvania War Council and the State Veterans Commission for FY 2007-08.
- This issue requires immediate attention to ensure that Pennsylvania Veterans can access their veterans-related benefits at the state and federal level and can receive assistance throughout the entire application and approval process.

VSO Impact

- Pennsylvania veterans received \$1.1 billion in VA compensation and pension benefits during the federal fiscal year 2005.
- In 2004, the average annual benefit for a Pennsylvania veteran without service officer representation from a veterans group was \$4,612 compared to \$11,122 with service officer representation from a veterans group.
- The need for trained Veterans' Service Officers who understand the complexity of claims process has never been higher.

Proposal

- Each state takes a different approach to ensuring that their veterans population is aware of and receives benefits for which they are eligible.
- Many states the size of Pennsylvania employ additional veterans' service officers at the state level in addition to those provided by the veteran service organizations.
- Several states provide funding through their state veterans' affairs office to the veterans' service organizations to sustain statewide service officer efforts.
- Currently, Pennsylvania does not provide any funding to Pennsylvania's Veterans' Service Organizations in support of the service officers program.
- The first priority of the proposal is to maintain and retain the existing service officers that veterans' organizations already have in place.
- The second priority is to gain funding to reduce turnover by improving compensation levels for the veterans' groups service officers and providing administrative assistance to support claims processing.
- The third priority is to provide additional funding to support the expected increase in claims secondary to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.



Funds

- Appropriated funds will be used to cover salaries, wages, benefits, training, and equipment associated with the hiring and retention of accredited veterans' service officers and associated support staff.

Summary

- Nineteen states are currently contributing to the Service Officers of the Veterans' Service Organizations.
- Pennsylvania's Veterans' Service Organizations are presently helping state veterans to access in excess of \$60m federal dollars pursuant to filing over 64,000 benefit claims per month. The greatest number of claims are filed for compensation assistance (n=44,615.)
- Every dollar secured in federal benefits to assist veterans with medical benefits, pharmaceutical, and general cost of living expenses equates to a reduced reliance on state support programs and more money spent in Pennsylvania's economy.
- Pennsylvania's Veterans' Service Organizations are requesting \$2.2m to maintain, sustain, and grow the veterans service officer program.
- This request equates to roughly two dollars of support for each of Pennsylvania's 1.1m veterans.

Monthly Awards Paid to Veteran Service Organizations

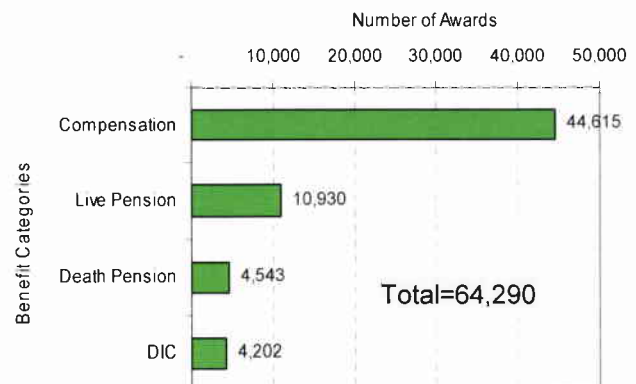
Veteran Service Orgs	Awards	Dollars
Disabled Veterans	28,370	\$ 30,509,658
American Legion	23,987	\$ 19,545,279
Veterans of Foreign Wars	9,742	\$ 7,687,570
AmVets	2,191	\$ 2,041,292
Statewide Totals	64,290	\$ 59,783,799

As of March 30, 2007

"In 2004, the average annual benefit for a Pennsylvania veteran without a Service Officer from a veterans' group was \$4,612 compared to \$11,122 with representation from a veterans' group."

"Adequately funding the Veterans' Service Office program is the leading legislative priority of the Pennsylvania War Council and the State Veterans' Commission in 2007."

Veterans Benefits by Category Distributed by State VSOs
(March 2007)





PENNSYLVANIA WAR VETERANS COUNCIL



P. O. Box 2324, Harrisburg, PA 17105 - 2324
717 - 730 - 9100

June 4, 2007

Dear Senator:

The Pennsylvania War Veterans Council has worked hand-in-hand with four Veterans' Service Organizations, including The American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars, to draft a legislative proposal to increase support for service officers supported by Pennsylvania's Veterans' Service Organizations. Presently, these organizations assist veterans in processing over 64,290 claims a month helping Pennsylvania's veterans to claim nearly \$60,000,000 per month in federal veterans' benefits that otherwise would not be returned to the Commonwealth.

Senator Baker (R-Luzerne), Chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, has agreed to sponsor the Veterans' Service Officers bill, (SB 915, number reserved), and will be distributing a co-sponsorship memo shortly. The bill will enable these veterans' groups to keep the service officers programs staffed with Veterans' Administration certified personnel needed to provide Pennsylvania's veterans with the outreach and support that they deserve to access federal veterans' benefits.

Presently, nineteen states fund service officer programs through legislation similar to that being proposed. Some states have larger veterans' population, some smaller, but no states are experiencing a declining population. Michigan, with 820,000 veterans, closely aligns with Pennsylvania's population of 1.1 million. Presently, Michigan appropriates \$3.9m annually to support veterans' service officers hired by veterans' groups and realizes a return of \$63 in federal veterans' benefits for every state dollar spent.

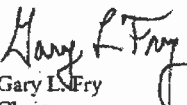
Our proposal seeks \$2.2m in state dollars to support the retention, hiring, and outreach of veterans' service officers by Pennsylvania's veterans' service organizations or two dollars of support for each of Pennsylvania's 1.1 million veterans. This level of support will enable our veterans' service organizations to continue to capture over \$720,000,000 in federal veterans benefits and to realize a return in investment of \$327 in federal benefits for every \$1 of state dollar spent.

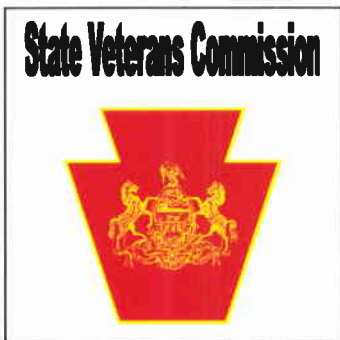
We have reviewed the proposal with Governor Rendell, members of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs including Adjutant General Wright, Auditor General Wagner, as well as with the Veterans' Commission on behalf of our members. At a special luncheon meeting held on May 3, 2007 at the Governor's residence, the Governor pledged support to the legislation and the associated funding request.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 1.1 million veterans, I ask that you review the enclosed material considering the merits of our proposal for veterans past, present, and future. Your support is requested and, quite honestly, needed.

Please feel free to contact Kit Watson, Council Secretary at 717-730-9100 or send an email at kit@pa-legion.com. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Gary L. Fry
Chairman



A Proposal
From
The Veterans of the
Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania
For
The Veterans Population
of Pennsylvania

A White Paper for State Funding of Veterans Service Organization, Veteran Service Officer Programs

a. Description of the Problem:

One of the traditional and historical roles of veterans' service organizations (VSO's) in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation has been to provide and fund trained and accredited Veteran Service Officers to represent veterans and their families in pursuit of services and benefits entitled to them by federal law. More than 50 percent¹ of the veterans receiving VA Compensation or Pension benefits in Pennsylvania are represented by a Veteran Service Organization. We have always regarded this role as our primary mission, our duty, and a sacred obligation to those who served, sacrificed, and in many cases died in the service of our country. Our very ability to carry on and continue this mission now stands in jeopardy.

As Veteran Service Organizations, we currently fund our Veteran Service Officer programs through dues and fund raising projects supported by our members. Collectively, this costs our state veterans organizations in excess of 1.8 million dollars annually. This program directly competes with the many other programs we do everyday to recognize the sacrifices made by veterans. Realistically, we know we can not continue the programs of the past with less people to help pay the bill. We also realize that this is not the time to pull back or reduce our resources when it comes to veteran services. Pennsylvania ranks 4th in the nation for the number of service members serving on active duty since 2 August 1990 (the current war period)². Based on most estimates, at least one in four of these returning veterans will seek VA Compensation for their service connected injuries or illnesses. We have struggled to keep our service officer programs funded, staffed and trained in the past and know it will be even harder in the future. In this regard, we are unable to pay service officers and their staff a decent wage when compared to the vast knowledge and experience that they must possess. We are currently unable to attract and retain qualified candidates of the future. As an example, the Pennsylvania American Legion is currently seeking a Service Officer in Erie with an advertised starting salary of \$21,500 annually. With starting salaries this low it makes it very difficult to attract candidates that can perform the responsibilities of the position. It takes several years for a new service officer to become fully trained, accredited, functional and effective.

For these reasons the four largest nationally chartered Veteran Service Organizations in Pennsylvania, The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and the Pennsylvania Department of AMVETS have joined together, as one collective and united voice to bring these issues to the forefront. We seek legislative help in the form of state funding to keep our service officer programs appropriately staffed and functional. Solving this issue has become the leading legislative priority of the Pennsylvania War Council and the State Veterans Commission and has become an issue that needs immediate attention.

b. Overview

Pennsylvania veterans received 1.1 billion³ dollars in VA compensation and pension benefits during the Federal fiscal year 2005. We have requested information through the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to ask the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to provide us a specific breakdown by Veteran Service Organization. We have requested for this information so there can be no doubt of its factual nature. **The acquired figures from the VA show our four VSO's brought in awards paid by VBA to Pennsylvania Residents for a one month period total \$59,763,803.78 as of March 30, 2007². In 2004, the average annual benefit for a Pennsylvania veteran without Veteran Service Officer Representation was \$4,612 compared to \$11,122 with VSO Representation¹. This speaks of the effectiveness of our programs.** But today's cases are much more complicated than those of the past. Entitlements and benefits are enacted by Congress everyday and frequently the Court of Veteran Appeals makes decisions that affect benefits. The necessity of a Veteran Service Officer to have up to date knowledge in medical and legal matters has never been higher.

c. Overview of Proposed Recommendation

Each state has a somewhat different approach to ensure their veteran population is aware of and receives benefits for which they are eligible. As an example, many states our size employs numerous service officers in addition to those provided by the veteran service organizations. **Nineteen states provide funding** through their state veteran affairs office to the veteran service organizations to sustain their service officer efforts. Currently in Pennsylvania the state does not provide any funding to the VSO's in support of their service officers. Our first concern is to sustain and improve our VSO service officer program that we have in place. **Our veterans deserve no less!**

With adequate legislative funding we can ensure our veteran service officer programs are better staffed and suffer less turn-over. We can establish a living wage for service officers that compensate them for the highly skilled position and critical functions they perform. We can ensure they have adequate administrative staff to support the number of claims filed. We can better train and demand more of our volunteer post/chapter service officers who in many cases initiate the claims process. We can improve our outreach capability.

d. Effectiveness of the Program

We believe that our organizations play a vital role in ensuring Pennsylvania veterans receive the full benefits they are entitled based upon their military service and we have a long history of performing that mission. We are eager to work with our State Legislators, Governor and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to develop the legal means of providing funding to support our veteran service officer programs.

It is our intention to limit the usage of appropriated funds to salaries, wages, related personnel costs, training and equipment for accredited veteran service officers and necessary support staff.

e. Who wins with legislative funding?

The veterans of Pennsylvania – The veteran support system in Pennsylvania relies much on our ability to foster a volunteer staff of Post/Chapter Service Officers supported by trained, accredited National Services Officers to represent claims at the Regional Office Level. Increased financial resources will allow us to improve this claims pipeline and better prepare us to identify and outreach to veterans who are not in receipt of benefits. It's a foregone conclusion; The more service officers a state has serving its veteran population, the more beneficial it is to the veterans there!

The Commonwealth's economy! The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's economy wins because of the return to the veteran in the form of Federal benefit entitlements. Commonwealth Medicaid expenditures are also lessened.

Today's returning veterans! More than ever before, today's veterans need our support to ensure they receive all benefits they have earned.

f. Summary

There are 19 States currently contributing to the Service Officers of the VSO's. We have reached a point in time where adequate continued support of our Service Offices and their related staffs are in jeopardy. The Pennsylvania Service VSO's currently need 1.6 million to maintain current service Officer Programs. We are asking for 2.2 million appropriations to provide appropriate compensation to our Service Offices, expand outreach, train and equip staff employees, which equates to two dollars a veteran in Pennsylvania.

References

- 1 VA Inspector General Report, May 2005, Review of State Variance in VA Disability, Page 107 (page 6 in this proposal)
2. Monthly awards paid by VBA to Pennsylvania residents by VSO (page 7 in this proposal)
- 3 CTS Deployment Files as of December 31, 2006 (page 8 - 11 in this proposal)
- 4 Geographic Distributions of VA Expenditures for FY 2005 (page 12 & 13 in this proposal)
- 5 CRS Report to Congress, 8 June 2006, Table 2 (page 14 - 18 in this proposal)
6. Returning Soldiers with PTSD (page 19 & 20 in this proposal)
7. Pennsylvania War Veterans Council Legislative Goals 2006-2007 (page 21 in this proposal)
8. Pennsylvania American Legion Resolution of support (page 22 in this proposal)
9. VSO Service Officer costs, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and AMVETS (page 23 - 28 in this proposal)
10. Comparison statistics from the State of Michigan (page 29 & 30 in this proposal)

Table 10. Veterans Power of Attorney Representation by State—FY 2004

State	Veterans Receiving Compensation		Veterans with Representation			Veterans without Representation		
	Average Annual Payment	Number	Number	Percent of Total Veterans	Average Annual Payment	Number	Percent of Total Veterans	Average Annual Payment
50-State Totals	\$8,378	2,493,576	1,591,334	63.8%	\$10,631	902,242	36.2%	\$4,406
New Mexico	\$12,004	25,258	16,649	65.9%	\$15,275	8,609	34.1%	\$5,677
Maine	\$11,626	18,751	13,101	69.9%	\$14,419	5,650	30.1%	\$5,148
Arkansas	\$10,968	31,473	21,309	67.7%	\$13,052	10,164	32.3%	\$6,397
West Virginia	\$10,866	20,681	15,176	73.4%	\$12,791	5,505	26.6%	\$5,561
Oklahoma	\$10,697	51,213	32,918	64.3%	\$13,501	18,295	35.7%	\$5,650
Oregon	\$10,277	35,449	26,919	75.9%	\$11,890	8,530	24.1%	\$5,187
Vermont	\$9,649	6,894	4,248	61.6%	\$12,449	2,646	38.4%	\$5,153
Arizona	\$9,308	50,224	31,341	62.4%	\$11,894	18,883	37.6%	\$5,016
North Carolina	\$9,281	90,745	65,559	72.2%	\$11,086	25,186	27.8%	\$4,583
Kentucky	\$9,194	37,657	23,767	63.1%	\$11,700	13,890	36.9%	\$4,905
Louisiana	\$9,114	37,475	27,009	72.1%	\$10,984	10,466	27.9%	\$4,290
Mississippi	\$8,949	25,620	15,156	59.2%	\$11,315	10,464	40.8%	\$5,523
Texas	\$8,928	208,986	140,951	67.4%	\$11,043	68,035	32.6%	\$4,545
Rhode Island	\$8,893	17,301	9,821	56.8%	\$12,398	7,480	43.2%	\$4,291
Montana	\$8,871	12,444	9,497	76.3%	\$10,267	2,947	23.7%	\$4,372
Nevada	\$8,771	20,620	11,669	56.6%	\$11,591	8,951	43.4%	\$5,095
Tennessee	\$8,698	54,108	35,407	65.4%	\$10,888	18,701	34.6%	\$4,550
Florida	\$8,658	179,850	129,221	71.8%	\$10,355	50,629	28.2%	\$4,327
Nebraska	\$8,623	23,143	16,633	71.9%	\$10,269	6,510	28.1%	\$4,415
Idaho	\$8,604	14,185	10,760	75.9%	\$9,959	3,425	24.1%	\$4,346
South Dakota	\$8,548	9,823	7,229	73.6%	\$10,070	2,594	26.4%	\$4,307
Washington	\$8,531	85,094	64,654	76.0%	\$9,661	20,440	24.0%	\$4,956
Hawaii	\$8,491	15,895	6,717	42.3%	\$12,471	9,178	57.7%	\$5,579
South Carolina	\$8,459	44,708	29,279	65.5%	\$10,587	15,429	34.5%	\$4,423
Minnesota	\$8,321	39,990	30,033	75.1%	\$9,935	9,957	24.9%	\$3,454
Wisconsin	\$8,297	44,102	32,923	74.7%	\$9,754	11,179	25.3%	\$4,005
Missouri	\$8,232	49,126	32,086	65.3%	\$10,366	17,040	34.7%	\$4,214
New Hampshire	\$8,168	13,470	7,934	58.9%	\$10,669	5,536	41.1%	\$4,584
Alabama	\$8,165	54,247	36,483	67.3%	\$10,138	17,764	32.7%	\$4,113
North Dakota	\$8,143	10,655	8,594	80.7%	\$9,221	2,061	19.3%	\$3,647
Alaska	\$8,138	11,648	8,397	72.1%	\$9,362	3,251	27.9%	\$4,977
California	\$8,099	229,915	151,261	65.8%	\$10,089	78,654	34.2%	\$4,271
Maryland	\$7,944	36,808	17,405	47.3%	\$11,062	19,403	52.7%	\$5,147
Colorado	\$7,944	49,580	31,382	63.3%	\$10,093	18,198	36.7%	\$4,238
Utah	\$7,906	14,748	8,374	56.8%	\$10,416	6,374	43.2%	\$4,610
Pennsylvania	\$7,898	101,755	51,354	50.5%	\$11,122	50,401	49.5%	\$4,613
Iowa	\$7,797	20,642	13,297	64.4%	\$9,832	7,345	35.6%	\$4,114
Wyoming	\$7,778	5,871	3,450	58.8%	\$9,867	2,421	41.2%	\$4,801
Georgia	\$7,775	84,118	47,953	57.0%	\$10,416	36,165	43.0%	\$4,274
Virginia	\$7,716	81,297	54,087	66.5%	\$9,118	27,210	33.5%	\$4,930
Kansas	\$7,579	24,213	16,450	67.9%	\$9,390	7,763	32.1%	\$3,740
Massachusetts	\$7,529	53,584	26,505	49.5%	\$11,478	27,079	50.5%	\$3,665
Delaware	\$7,453	7,584	4,416	58.2%	\$9,765	3,168	41.8%	\$4,230

Monthly Awards Paid by VBA to Pennsylvania Residents by VSO

As of 30 March 2007

VSO	Category	Philadelphia		Pittsburgh	
		Awards	Dollars	Awards	Dollars
American Legion	Compensation	8077	\$7,804,351.33	5328	\$4,585,026.76
	Death Pension	1967	\$676,874.23	1015	\$498,530.99
	DIC	1036	\$1,108,443.60	655	\$737,376.52
	Live Pension	4686	\$3,076,894.54	1222	\$1,057,781.99
	Total	15766	\$12,666,563.70	6221	\$6,878,716.26
Amvets	Compensation	1140	\$1,202,642.00	521	\$459,809.00
	Death Pension	73	\$20,979.50	29	\$11,655.00
	DIC	100	\$110,948.72	35	\$38,305.92
	Live Pension	231	\$144,318.25	62	\$52,635.00
	Total	1544	\$1,478,888.47	647	\$562,404.92
DAV	Compensation	13931	\$16,616,883.90	9476	\$9,943,781.00
	Death Pension	282	\$94,717.57	133	\$39,974.75
	DIC	884	\$999,322.88	641	\$742,346.52
	Live Pension	2175	\$1,499,498.55	846	\$673,134.24
	Total	17272	\$19,210,422.90	11096	\$11,299,236.51
VFW	Compensation	4070	\$3,802,135.50	2089	\$1,598,281.50
	Death Pension	701	\$175,165.58	343	\$91,483.63
	DIC	570	\$627,263.76	281	\$318,167.00
	Live Pension	1346	\$810,498.60	362	\$264,575.25
	Total	6687	\$5,415,063.44	3065	\$2,272,507.58

Totals from Pittsburgh & Philadelphia
 In one month
\$59,763,803.78

For Official Use Only

Currently Deployed Legal Residence / Home Residence State

Source: CTS Deployment File as of December 31, 2006

Legal Residence/ Home Address for Service Members Currently Deployed as of December 31, 2006

Source: CTS Deployment File as of December 31, 2006

STATE of Record	ARMY	COAST GUARD	AIR FORCE	MARINE CORPS	NAVY	TOTAL ACTIVE DUTY	ARMY GUARD	ARMY RESERVE	COAST GUARD RESERVE	AIR NATIONAL GUARD	AIR FORCE RESERVE	MARINE CORPS RESERVE	NAVY RESERVE	TOTAL RESERVE FORCES	Total SVC Members	Percent of Total
Armed Forces America	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	145	0.06%
Armed Forces Europe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,269	0.56%
Alaska	3,891	0	943	72	123	6,029	598	21	0	67	2	6	2	697	5,726	2.52%
Alabama	1,228	0	201	353	343	2,125	1,200	359	0	15	23	95	6	1,699	3,823	1.69%
Armed Forces Pacific	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	1	26	35	35	0.02%
Arkansas	738	0	186	150	209	1,283	1,085	155	0	55	7	11	3	1,316	2,589	1.15%
American Samoa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0.00%
Arizona	1,619	0	271	571	407	2,869	423	201	0	105	21	130	8	688	3,756	1.66%
California	7,514	0	1,776	2,982	3,472	16,724	1,320	1,009	5	113	213	405	363	3,428	19,152	8.44%
Colorado	1,108	0	251	385	364	2,109	430	251	0	14	47	77	5	824	2,933	1.29%
Connecticut	506	0	128	230	163	1,027	727	82	0	16	34	19	5	883	1,910	0.84%
District of Columbia	58	0	12	22	37	129	18	28	0	3	1	2	25	77	206	0.09%
Delaware	164	0	53	59	55	331	39	28	0	5	67	18	0	167	489	0.22%
Florida	8,507	0	3,449	2,020	4,645	16,521	821	634	0	153	102	183	120	2,013	20,634	9.10%
Georgia	2,127	0	396	651	661	3,835	468	793	0	106	60	126	30	1,693	5,418	2.38%
Guam	0	0	0	0	0	0	157	23	0	0	1	0	0	188	188	0.08%
Hawaii	367	0	79	93	73	602	15	203	0	79	12	8	7	324	926	0.41%
Iowa	558	0	151	179	153	1,041	907	116	0	38	4	7	3	1,078	2,116	0.93%
Idaho	444	0	157	161	168	930	288	235	0	21	2	10	0	566	1,486	0.65%
Illinois	3,146	0	938	993	1,260	6,337	642	428	0	279	25	96	16	1,486	7,823	3.45%
Indiana	1,260	0	237	389	315	2,201	642	318	0	27	28	158	3	1,176	3,377	1.49%
Kansas	709	0	138	221	187	1,255	645	154	0	38	20	38	5	900	2,155	0.95%
Kentucky	695	0	149	256	176	1,276	1,044	157	0	31	7	15	2	1,266	2,534	1.12%
Louisiana	1,219	0	236	384	413	2,252	44	147	0	4	6	40	13	254	2,516	1.11%
Massachusetts	770	0	145	376	201	1,492	332	298	0	24	108	35	5	802	2,294	1.01%
Maryland	948	0	186	410	363	1,907	170	293	0	111	22	124	46	766	2,673	1.18%
Maine	391	0	63	116	86	658	335	88	0	17	1	2	0	443	1,101	0.49%
Michigan	2,744	0	648	835	889	5,116	1,000	338	0	83	9	535	7	1,972	7,086	3.12%
Minnesota	728	0	182	301	212	1,421	2,571	263	0	98	26	14	0	2,972	4,393	1.94%
Missouri	1,609	0	382	461	472	2,924	312	229	0	31	25	114	12	723	3,647	1.61%

Ever Deployed Legal Residence / Home Residence State
 Source: CTS Deployment File as of December 31, 2006

STATE of Record	ARMY	COAST GUARD	AIR FORCE	MARINE CORPS	NAVY	TOTAL ACTIVE DUTY	ARMY RESERVE	ARMY GUARD	COAST GUARD RESERVE	AIR NATIONAL GUARD	AIR FORCE RESERVE	MARINE CORPS RESERVE	NAVY RESERVE	TOTAL RESERVE FORCES	Total SVC Members	Percent of Total
Armed Forces America	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	499	0.03%
Armed Forces Europe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,456	0.37%
Alabama	13,215	0	0	0	0	23,400	457	335	0	0	116	0	4,958	6,486	29,721	1.75%
Albania	4,478	0	2,654	445	3,323	13,788	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,341	25,446	1.74%
Armed Forces Pacific	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,870	0.84%
Arkansas	3,297	0	1,625	0	0	7,891	1,171	4,725	0	0	0	0	0	6,776	14,968	1.02%
American Samoa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	294	0.02%
Arizona	7,949	0	2,315	1,067	3,924	16,112	3,327	3,301	0	0	0	0	135	5,663	23,683	1.48%
California	34,413	0	15,245	17,747	33,134	96,877	7,355	5,352	1,078	1,273	3,646	4,252	3,950	27,034	126,911	0.86%
Colorado	4,896	0	1,861	3,717	2,677	13,066	1,194	1,527	0	0	0	0	0	4,946	17,010	1.16%
Connecticut	2,425	0	1,146	1,365	1,477	6,436	4,962	770	0	0	0	0	0	4,999	10,539	0.73%
District of Columbia	272	0	75	126	228	781	144	189	0	0	0	0	0	677	1,379	0.09%
Delaware	712	0	535	351	428	2,036	332	289	0	0	0	0	0	1,714	3,744	0.26%
Florida	44,178	0	12,162	21,526	38,125	128,987	4,753	5,795	15	762	2,504	1,253	1,445	16,472	143,469	9.78%
Georgia	19,509	0	3,450	3,837	5,257	33,393	4,628	5,247	4	1,937	963	937	408	12,974	37,357	2.55%
Guam	0	0	0	0	0	0	564	163	0	0	123	0	0	1,846	1,005	0.07%
Hawaii	1,297	0	542	416	632	3,186	2,962	7,076	0	0	204	80	144	4,927	7,212	0.49%
Iowa	2,532	0	1,164	1,273	1,336	5,325	1,460	1,460	0	0	0	0	0	5,487	13,132	0.90%
Idaho	2,160	0	1,269	343	1,425	6,916	2,234	455	0	0	0	0	0	3,368	9,181	0.63%
Illinois	15,336	0	8,573	9,629	12,727	41,272	3,453	4,658	0	0	0	0	125	11,818	52,790	3.60%
Indiana	5,718	0	2,624	1,684	1,762	13,198	4,739	4,739	0	0	0	0	0	8,962	22,147	1.51%
Kansas	3,145	0	1,039	1,254	1,422	7,828	754	1,932	1	1,262	297	162	89	5,187	13,187	0.90%
Kentucky	3,468	0	1,229	1,680	1,850	7,977	3,332	1,426	0	0	0	0	0	6,863	13,660	0.95%
Louisiana	6,919	0	4,434	1,374	3,777	14,693	5,983	3,354	11	497	671	493	130	9,954	23,527	1.61%
Massachusetts	3,134	0	1,090	3,306	4,522	8,950	3,314	1,998	0	0	0	0	0	7,826	15,681	1.07%
Maryland	4,511	0	1,575	2,579	1,912	11,778	3,914	4,374	0	0	0	0	0	7,423	19,207	1.31%
Maine	1,734	0	567	745	527	3,947	1,495	473	0	0	0	0	0	2,783	6,740	0.46%
Michigan	12,957	0	6,024	5,011	7,428	31,443	4,802	2,558	0	0	0	0	0	9,882	41,135	2.81%
Minnesota	2,216	0	1,034	1,783	1,497	8,914	5,304	2,140	0	0	0	0	0	9,249	17,564	1.21%
Missouri	7,374	0	3,471	2,908	3,973	17,328	4,407	1,661	0	0	0	0	119	9,330	27,195	1.85%
Northern Marianan Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0.01%
Mississippi	3,658	0	1,475	1,240	2,329	8,572	5,792	1,343	18	1,337	196	224	779	9,464	18,256	1.25%
Montana	2,721	0	1,671	827	1,252	6,476	1,212	525	0	0	0	0	0	2,919	8,995	0.61%
North Carolina	9,445	0	1,977	4,232	4,926	21,890	5,482	1,078	3	950	768	1,205	332	12,831	34,435	2.35%
North Dakota	822	0	301	371	310	2,244	1,695	183	0	0	0	0	0	2,088	4,302	0.29%
Nebraska	1,813	0	1,013	502	1,037	4,776	2,452	1,272	0	0	0	0	0	4,904	5,364	0.64%
New Hampshire	2,415	0	1,365	955	1,166	5,788	1,254	581	0	0	0	0	0	2,488	8,272	0.56%
New Jersey	8,302	0	3,945	4,343	2,946	35,138	1,676	1,676	0	0	0	0	0	7,163	32,298	2.20%
New Mexico	2,718	0	1,430	1,172	1,518	6,951	985	591	0	0	0	0	0	2,372	9,323	0.64%
Nevada	3,632	0	3,084	1,172	2,926	19,817	822	395	0	0	0	0	0	2,113	12,630	0.86%
New York	17,335	0	5,176	7,309	10,577	46,827	4,930	5,149	0	0	0	0	0	18,730	56,647	3.86%
Ohio	11,874	0	5,681	5,874	6,920	38,191	4,937	4,738	0	0	0	0	0	14,637	44,726	3.05%
Oklahoma	4,775	0	1,974	2,413	2,204	16,888	2,224	1,295	0	0	0	0	0	6,944	17,814	1.22%
Oregon	4,726	0	2,851	1,367	3,556	13,811	3,225	669	0	0	0	0	0	4,887	18,204	1.24%

Ever Deployed Legal Residence / Home Residence State
 Source: CTS Deployment File as of December 31, 2008

File

STATE of Record	ARMY	COAST GUARD	AIR FORCE	MARINE CORPS	NAVY	TOTAL ACTIVE DUTY	ARMY RESERVE	COAST GUARD RESERVE	AIR NATIONAL GUARD	AIR FORCE RESERVE	MARINE CORPS RESERVE	NAVY RESERVE	TOTAL RESERVE FORCES	Total SVC Members	Percent of Total
Pennsylvania	14,903	0	8,394	5,282	9,591	38,167	5,310	5,793	0	2,450	1,359	282	17,811	58,706	3.87%
Puerto Rico	3,729	0	151	0	557	3,418	4,359	2,483	0	537	3	10	7,161	10,523	0.72%
Rhode Island	975	0	261	475	474	1,706	1,202	285	0	524	14	88	2,324	3,980	0.27%
South Carolina	5,859	0	2,121	2,403	3,205	13,506	3,617	1,776	0	843	1,024	273	6,318	21,904	1.49%
South Dakota	1,772	0	1,567	475	783	6,017	1,326	156	0	687	24	2	2,912	8,929	0.61%
Tennessee	19,717	0	5,010	2,365	5,297	31,000	7,962	1,530	0	1,961	160	108	10,191	42,139	2.87%
Texas	18,937	0	33,465	15,811	27,373	167,612	1,962	1,794	0	1,540	2,469	1,231	23,038	180,651	12.32%
Utah	1,591	0	584	776	759	3,000	2,870	1,059	0	679	576	232	4,648	9,588	0.65%
Virginia	5,155	0	3,214	4,281	5,420	23,328	3,375	4,005	0	545	597	1,154	12,343	35,603	2.43%
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	222	322	0.02%
Vermont	917	0	425	337	381	1,994	1,379	142	0	413	15	15	1,865	3,919	0.27%
Washington	14,327	0	5,964	3,029	9,297	34,541	4,452	2,056	0	853	1,313	261	9,481	43,503	2.97%
Wisconsin	4,263	0	1,710	2,375	2,725	10,006	4,748	2,421	0	1,342	513	105	9,448	20,034	1.37%
West Virginia	3,470	0	1,273	1,152	1,375	8,068	2,021	1,155	0	554	78	96	4,287	12,355	0.84%
Wyoming	1,428	0	1,176	525	605	3,028	932	122	0	439	18	12	1,391	5,316	0.36%
UNKNOWN	4,055	2,580	1,725	552	1,976	11,900	24	670	0	729	766	2,459	4,912	15,887	1.09%
TOTAL	437,393	2,580	208,812	152,855	258,318	1,861,987	178,812	181,800	211	53,487	29,878	23,322	413,814	1,465,771	100.00%

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2005
PENNSYLVANIA
Expenditures in \$000

COUNTY	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditures	Compensation & Pension	Education & Voc Rehab	Insurance & Indemnities
ADAMS	8,958	8,382	7,064	543	775
ALLEGHENY	119,825	136,143	117,841	8,361	9,942
ARMSTRONG	7,522	9,364	8,403	334	627
BEAVER	19,451	20,224	17,405	1,141	1,678
BEDFORD	4,645	6,340	5,716	232	392
BERKS	33,100	30,590	25,880	1,996	2,714
BLAIR	13,362	19,992	17,944	940	1,109
BRADFORD	6,395	7,694	6,817	312	565
BUCKS	52,777	44,537	37,307	2,847	4,382
BUTLER	16,839	18,245	15,702	1,140	1,403
CAMBRIA	15,646	21,347	18,872	1,154	1,321
CAMERON	677	857	739	57	61
CARBON	6,894	8,441	7,380	454	608
CENTRE	10,535	10,141	7,419	1,866	856
CHESTER	35,185	35,305	30,549	1,852	2,905
CLARION	3,945	5,569	4,763	473	334
CLEARFIELD	8,672	10,612	9,270	582	761
CLINTON	3,954	4,015	3,316	361	338
COLUMBIA	6,369	6,745	5,788	411	546
CRAWFORD	9,099	10,965	9,597	565	803
CUMBERLAND	23,547	29,159	25,346	1,927	1,886
DAUPHIN	24,767	29,292	24,739	2,523	2,029
DELAWARE	45,359	46,364	40,083	2,558	3,722
ELK	3,684	3,784	3,282	199	303
ERIE	25,377	29,987	25,628	2,246	2,113
FAYETTE	14,664	22,466	20,263	955	1,249
FOREST	724	558	459	39	60
FRANKLIN	12,933	16,639	14,743	760	1,136
FULTON	1,309	1,673	1,522	35	117
GREENE	4,205	6,378	5,758	268	352
HUNTINGDON	4,655	4,780	4,174	205	401
INDIANA	7,954	10,778	9,354	757	668
JEFFERSON	4,397	6,273	5,610	279	384
JUNIATA	1,909	1,480	1,280	49	151

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2005
PENNSYLVANIA
Expenditures in \$000

COUNTY	Veteran Population *	Total Expenditures	Compensation & Pension	Education &		Insurance & Indemnities
				Voc Rehab	Indemnities	
LACKAWANNA	20,735	29,904	27,086	1,112	1,705	
LANCASTER	37,721	33,062	27,153	2,726	3,182	
LAWRENCE	9,291	11,286	9,968	507	811	
LEBANON	12,110	17,533	15,750	784	1,000	
LEHIGH	27,948	25,341	21,216	1,799	2,326	
LUZERNE	34,108	51,885	47,465	1,530	2,891	
LYCOMING	12,222	11,916	9,871	1,002	1,042	
MCKEAN	5,075	5,891	5,284	185	423	
MERCER	11,747	11,342	9,533	809	1,001	
MIFFLIN	4,568	4,480	3,841	237	402	
MONROE	14,884	15,284	13,204	819	1,261	
MONTGOMERY	62,560	49,389	40,686	3,591	5,111	
MONTOUR	1,987	1,726	1,412	160	153	
NORTHAMPTON	25,339	21,632	18,132	1,374	2,126	
NORTHUMBERLAND	10,116	11,222	9,857	499	866	
PERRY	4,533	5,219	4,532	322	365	
PHILADELPHIA	101,830	161,224	145,717	7,370	8,137	
PIKE	6,048	5,649	4,892	257	500	
POTTER	1,967	2,523	2,217	135	172	
SCHUYLKILL	16,097	21,706	19,482	921	1,302	
SNYDER	3,115	2,509	2,137	114	257	
SOMERSET	7,584	9,610	8,686	279	645	
SULLIVAN	836	832	697	68	67	
SUSQUEHANNA	4,546	5,097	4,538	166	393	
TIOGA	4,507	5,510	4,802	322	386	
UNION	3,691	2,868	2,423	134	311	
VENANGO	6,273	7,208	6,278	392	538	
WARREN	4,732	5,000	4,374	222	404	
WASHINGTON	20,675	21,372	18,625	1,004	1,743	
WAYNE	5,689	6,070	5,325	265	480	
WESTMORELAND	39,161	41,410	35,728	2,287	3,394	
WYOMING	2,728	2,562	2,179	158	225	
YORK	36,620	32,234	26,010	3,078	3,146	
TOTALS	1,120,074	1,265,615	1,099,113	73,050	93,452	

CRS Report for Congress

Received through the CRS Web

United States Military Casualty Statistics: Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom

Hannah Fischer
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Knowledge Services Group

Summary

This report presents difficult-to-find statistics regarding U.S. military casualties in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF, Afghanistan), including those concerning medical evacuations, amputations, and the demographics of casualties. Some of these statistics are publically available at the Department of Defense's (DOD's) website, while others have been obtained through contact with experts at DOD.

Daily updates of total U.S. military casualties in OIF and OEF can be found at the DOD's website, at [<http://www.dior.whs.mil/munid/casualty/castop.htm>]. In addition, the CRS Report RS21578, *Iraq: Summary of U.S. Casualties* is updated on a weekly basis.

This report will be updated as needed.

Table 1. Total U.S. Military Casualties — Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, As of May 15, 2006

	Operation Iraqi Freedom	Operation Enduring Freedom
Non-Hostile Deaths	503	137
Hostile Deaths	1,822	143
Total Deaths	2,325	280
Total Wounded	17,469	718

Source: Department of Defense, [<http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OIF-Total.pdf>]. Weekly updates of this information can be found in CRS Report RS21578, *Iraq: Summary of U.S. Casualties*.

Medical Evacuation Statistics — U.S. Military Personnel

All U.S. military personnel evacuation statistics are provided to CRS by DOD's Deployment Health Support Directorate (DHSD) and the Army Office of the Surgeon General. The numbers listed in this report are taken from DOD's May 18, 2006; March 7, 2006; July 14, 2005, February 8, 2005; and October 18, 2004 updates. All numbers have been generated using the Transportation Command (TRANSCOM) Regulation and Command and Control Evacuation System (TRAC2ES).

Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)

According to DOD, a total of 26,802 individuals were medically evacuated from OIF from March 19, 2003, to May 18, 2006.

Table 2. Medical Reasons for Evacuations

	As of September 30, 2004	As of December 31, 2004	As of July 11, 2005	As of February 27, 2006
Battle Injuries	17%	19%	19%	20%
Non-Battle Injuries	21%	22%	17%	17%
Disease	63%	59%	64%	63%

Source: Department of Defense, Deployment Health Support Directorate.

Table 3. Distribution of Evacuations Among the Services

	As of September 30, 2004	As of December 31, 2004	As of July 11, 2005	As of February 27, 2006
Army	83%	83%	80%	83%
Marines	8%	10%	6%	12%
Air Force	3%	5%	3%	3%
Navy	2%	2%	7%	2%
Other ^a	N/A	N/A	4%	N/A

Source: Department of Defense, Deployment Health Support Directorate.

a. This category was added in the July 14, 2005 update and includes civilians, foreign nationals, and others. It was dropped in the March 7, 2006 update.

Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)

According to DOD, a total of 4,619 individuals were medically evacuated from OEF between October 27, 2001 through February 27, 2006.

Table 4. Medical Reasons for Evacuation

	As of September 30, 2004	As of December 31, 2004	As of July 11, 2005	As of February 27, 2006
Battle Injuries	8%	9%	8%	9%
Non-Battle Injuries	28%	27%	17%	18%
Disease	64%	64%	75%	73%

Source: Department of Defense, Deployment Health Support Directorate.

Table 5. Distribution of Evacuations Among the Services

	As of September 30, 2004	As of December 31, 2004	As of July 11, 2005	As of February 27, 2006
Army	69%	84%	67%	73%
Marines	11%	8%	7%	8%
Air Force	15%	7%	16%	16%
Navy	4%	1%	4%	3%
Other ^a	N/A	N/A	6%	N/A

Source: Department of Defense, Deployment Health Support Directorate.

a. This category was added in the July 14, 2005, update and includes civilians, foreign nationals, and others. It was dropped in the March 7, 2006 update.

Amputation and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Statistics for American Forces

Amputation and TBI statistics are provided to CRS by the Army Office of the Surgeon General. These injuries may overlap, that is, a single soldier may experience both a TBI and an amputation. The Army has subdivided its numbers to show this possible overlap; according to their statistics in March 2006, of the total 1,124 Army soldiers injured in the Global War on Terrorism (or GWOT, which includes OIF, OEF and some additional contingencies that do not contribute large numbers), 895 (or 80%) sustained a single injury, while 229 (or 20%) sustained multiple injuries.

Keeping these possible overlaps in mind, as of May 3, 2006, DOD reported a total of 674 amputations during OIF and OEF. Of the total number of amputations, 575 were sustained in OIF, 41 were sustained in OEF, and 58 were sustained during non-deployment. Of all amputations, 42.1% were caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

As of March 31, 2006, DOD reported a total of 1,179 traumatic brain injuries, or TBIs, during OIF and OEF. Of those TBIs, 96% or 1,128, were sustained during OIF, while 4%, or 50, were sustained during OEF. Of the total injuries in OIF and OEF, 222 were counted as “severe” or “penetrating.”

Gender Distribution of Deaths

Statistics in Tables 6 and 7 concerning the gender distribution of OIF and OEF casualties are available on DOD’s military casualty information website. All numbers are current as of April 29, 2006.

Table 6. Operation Iraqi Freedom

Gender	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
Male	2,345	97.8%
Female	52	2.2%
Total	2,397	100.0%

Source: DOD, Operation Iraqi Freedom — Military Deaths, at [<http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/oif-deaths-total.pdf>].

Table 7. Operation Enduring Freedom

Gender	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
Male	272	97.1%
Female	8	2.9%
Total	280	100.0%

Source: DOD, Operation Enduring Freedom — Military Deaths, at [<http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OEFDEATHS.pdf>].

Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Deaths

Statistics in **Tables 8 and 9** concerning the race and ethnicity distribution of OIF and OEF casualties are available on DOD's military casualty information website. All numbers are current as of April 29, 2006. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Table 8 Operation Iraqi Freedom

Race/Ethnicity	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
American Indian or Alaska Native	26	1.1%
Asian	43	1.8%
Black or African American	240	10.0%
Hispanic or Latino	270	11.3%
Multiple races, pending or unknown	31	1.3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	25	1.0%
White	1,762	73.5%
Total	2,397	100.0%

Source: DOD, Operation Iraqi Freedom — Military Deaths, at [<http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/oif-deaths-total.pdf>].

Table 9. Operation Enduring Freedom

Race/Ethnicity	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
American Indian or Alaska Native	4	1.4%
Asian	2	0.7%
Black or African American	21	7.5%
Hispanic or Latino	24	8.6%
Multiple races, pending or unknown	1	0.4%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	3	1.1%
White	225	80.4%
Total	280	100.0%

Source: DOD, Operation Enduring Freedom — Military Deaths, at [<http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OEFDEATHS.pdf>].

Soldiers with PTSD need better care, experts tell committee

By Tamika Petty

(AXcess News) Washington - Some members of Congress and psychological experts said Wednesday that post traumatic stress disorder among soldiers isn't getting the attention it deserves.

Rep. Steve Buyer R-Ind., is the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, which held a symposium on the subject.

"This nation doesn't understand PTSD," Buyer said. He said people are trying to rename PTSD, undermining the seriousness of the affliction with names like "stress injury."

"We cannot be sloppy in our words or our language. ... PTSD is a serious mental problem," said Rep. Bob Filner, D-Calif.

Buyer said that it's difficult for those in the military to admit to mental anguish because of the stigma it carries.

PTSD is a mental illness once called shellshock that causes symptoms such as nightmares, flashbacks and demoralization. PTSD isn't a singular disease - it's usually accompanied by other anxiety and depressive disorders as well as substance abuse. The majority of documented PTSD cases are among military personnel, which highlights the relationship between combat survivors and mental illness.

The military also fails to diagnose PTSD properly, sometimes saying a soldier has a personality disorder, which can make treatment ineffective.

Filner said identifying the disease this way places soldiers in a category of having a pre-existing condition, absolving the Department of Veterans Affairs of responsibility for the soldier.

The VA Web site says that 50,000 soldiers had sought help for PTSD through 2005. Of that number 16,000 were from the war in Iraq. Although the VA lists no more recent statistics, Saul Rosenberg, an associate clinical professor of medical psychology at the University of California, San Francisco, recalled one study stating that, out of 700,000 soldiers submitting claims to the VA for any problem, 200,000 were PTSD or stress related disorders.

Former Marine John Melia, the founder and executive director of the Wounded Warrior Project, a foundation devoted to helping wounded soldiers recover from physical and mental injuries, at one time suffered from PTSD. His helicopter exploded off the coast of Somalia in 1992 killing four of 18 on board and injuring the rest.

"It was sheer terror ... terror of drowning, terror of watching your friends die in front of you" he said. "When something like that happens, you change immediately. ... It's like a conversion."

Melia described the need for soldiers to get help and the hardship that comes with losing friends and reclaiming their lives.

One predicament delaying soldiers' recovery is their allotted transition time. Buyer said that, while soldiers are trained for months and months to go into battle, their transition into life back home is extremely short. However, the transition isn't the main problem, he said, getting help is.

One of the focal points of the symposium was the disconnect between the departments of Defense

and Veterans Affairs.

Dr. James Henry Scully, medical director for the American Psychiatric Association, described the "non-congruity" of records sharing between the two departments, forcing hospitals to treat ailing soldiers without having seen their medical records.

One issue many of the panelists agreed on was underfunding and understaffing of VA institutions.

Beth Hudnall Stamm, director of telehealth at the Institute of Rural Health at Idaho State University, said much of soldiers' mental care is handled by civilian clinics, which may not understand the complexity of problems specific to military injuries. She said PTSD is best treated when it is detected early, and the longer the wait the harder the treatment becomes.

Buyer said three budget bills before Congress will set a 30 percent increase for military health care.

An added dilemma facing returning soldiers is getting access to health care, especially if they're from rural areas or a minority. Rosenberg said most ethnic minorities and women are less likely to get the right mental health care. He said women are more willing than men to seek help from their own social groups if they don't get it from the VA.

Melia said fixing the problem will require convincing soldiers that there is no shame in seeking help and that they need to be assured doing so will not hurt their careers.

"The trauma is real. ... It's OK to suffer from immense stress related to combat" he said. "It is natural what our warriors go through. War is dirty business."

Source: Scripps Howard Foundation Wire



**THE PENNSYLVANIA
WAR VETERANS COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE GOALS
2006-2007**

- 1. Support the approval of funding for veterans' service organizations service programs.**
- 2. Follow-up the one-year study of a separate Department of Veterans Affairs with a Secretary of Cabinet Rank in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to provide adequate funding for the transition and operation of this new department.**
- 3. Retain and support the approval of funding for the DAV Transportation Network line item established in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Budget.**
- 4. Support a study resolution to have the Governor appoint the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council to determine and establish the need for additional veterans home(s) and facilities in South Central Pennsylvania.**

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
THE INN AT CHESTER SPRINGS
EXTON, PENNSYLVANIA
APRIL 13 – 15, 2007

Resolution No. 996

Submitted by: George Junkerman
Department Commander

WHEREAS: The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been supportive of the military and veterans since the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS: The Pennsylvania American Legion is the largest war time veterans' organization, founded on the principle of God and Country; and

WHEREAS: The Pennsylvania American Legion maintains support to the Commonwealth, the citizens and veterans through the four pillars of the organization, veterans affairs and rehabilitation, national security, Americanism and children & youth; and

WHEREAS: Veterans and their dependants are assisted in filing claims against the Department of Veterans Affairs through veteran service organization service officers; and

WHEREAS: The Pennsylvania American Legion maintains this support to the veterans and their family through the Rehabilitation Division, made up of service officers and their staff; and

WHEREAS: These American Legion Service Officers help veterans receive millions of dollars in benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs into the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS: The Pennsylvania American Legion maintains an annual budget of over \$650,000.00 for the Rehabilitation Division; and

WHEREAS: To safeguard this valuable service of helping file claims for the veteran and his/her families; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania Executive Committee meeting in regular session April 13 -15, 2007 at the Inn at Chester Springs, Exton, PA request the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to support the work of assisting veterans and their families filing claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States through the funding of The American Legion Service Officers and their staffs; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor and members of the Pennsylvania Senate and General Assembly.

APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____ REFERRED _____ CONSOLIDATED _____ FILED _____

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION OFFICES

	WILKES-BARRE	ERIE	PHILADELPHIA	PITTSBURGH	BUTLER	COATESVILLE	LEBANON	ALTOONA	WORMLEYSBURG	TOTAL
SALARIES:										
FRED SMITH [Dept Service Officer]	\$ 41,000.00									\$ 41,000.00
JAMES BOLER [Secretary]	\$ 28,000.00									\$ 28,000.00
CLARKE BLAKESLEE [Assistant Dept Serv Officer]		\$ 28,000.00								\$ 28,000.00
AMBER MOORE [Secretary]		\$ 25,000.00								\$ 25,000.00
JOHN KATZ [Dept Service Officer]			\$ 40,000.00							\$ 40,000.00
ANTHONY PARKER [Assistant Dept Serv Officer]			\$ 28,000.00							\$ 28,000.00
ALFRED ZARBOWSKI [Service Representative]			\$ 34,000.00							\$ 34,000.00
LINDA BROWN [Secretary]			\$ 22,000.00							\$ 22,000.00
VONIE WOOD [Clerk-Typist]			\$ 25,000.00							\$ 25,000.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Dept Service Officer]			\$ 30,000.00							\$ 30,000.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Secretary]			\$ 25,000.00							\$ 25,000.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Outreach Service Officer]			\$ 30,000.00							\$ 30,000.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Outreach Secretary]			\$ 20,000.00							\$ 20,000.00
STEPHEN DEWISON [Dept Service Officer]				\$ 40,000.00						\$ 40,000.00
GEORGE TARABOVIC [PT Asst Dept Serv Officer]				\$ 19,000.00						\$ 19,000.00
DENNIS KOMAR [Assistant Dept Serv Officer]				\$ 32,000.00						\$ 32,000.00
EDWARD FAIRCHILD [Assistant Dept Serv Officer]				\$ 28,000.00						\$ 28,000.00
EDWINA KOMAR [PT Clerk]				\$ 19,000.00						\$ 19,000.00
MARY RHODES [Clerk-Typist]				\$ 21,000.00						\$ 21,000.00
BERNADINE POLLOCK [Secretary]				\$ 21,000.00						\$ 21,000.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Dept Service Officer]				\$ 30,000.00						\$ 30,000.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Secretary]				\$ 21,000.00						\$ 21,000.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Outreach Service Officer]				\$ 30,000.00						\$ 30,000.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Outreach Secretary]				\$ 20,000.00						\$ 20,000.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Dept Service Officer]				\$ 32,000.00						\$ 32,000.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Dept Service Officer]				\$ 32,000.00						\$ 32,000.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Dept Service Officer]				\$ 32,000.00						\$ 32,000.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Dept Service Officer]				\$ 32,000.00						\$ 32,000.00
PAUL KLINE [PT Assistant Dept Serv Officer]								\$ 32,000.00		\$ 32,000.00
TOTAL SALARIES PER OFFICE:	\$ 89,000.00	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 255,000.00	\$ 203,000.00	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 888,000.00

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION OFFICES

	WILKES-BARRE	ERIE	PHILADELPHIA	PITTSBURGH	BUTLER	COATESVILLE	LEBANON	ALTOONA	WORMLEYSBURG	TOTAL
SALARIES:										
PAYROLL TAXES:	\$ 5,972.00	\$ 3,854.00	\$ 13,343.00	\$ 14,011.00					\$ 1,683.00	\$ 38,423.00
EMPLOYEE GROUP INSURANCE:	\$ 19,465.00	\$ 847.00	\$ 46,475.00	\$ 40,847.00						\$ 107,635.00
GENERAL INSURANCE:	\$ 629.00	\$ 478.00	\$ 1,489.00	\$ 1,458.00					\$ 221.00	\$ 4,275.00
TRAVEL:	\$ 2,550.00	\$ 3,590.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00					\$ 500.00	\$ 18,500.00
TELEPHONE:	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,200.00							\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,600.00
POSTAGE & FREIGHT:	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,500.00					\$ 500.00	\$ 5,400.00
EQUIPMENT RENTAL & REPAIR:	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 10,400.00	\$ 2,300.00					\$ 700.00	\$ 15,400.00
STATIONERY, PRINTING & SUPPLIES:	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,400.00					\$ 500.00	\$ 9,100.00
PENSION FUND:	\$ 1,511.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,525.00	\$ 4,711.00	\$ 1,283.00	\$ 1,283.00	\$ 1,283.00	\$ 1,283.00	\$ 425.00	\$ 17,604.00
SUNDRY: (PARING & MISC.)	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 7,900.00					\$	\$ 8,500.00
GRAND TOTALS PER OFFICE:	\$ 101,477.00	\$ 97,689.00	\$ 348,983.00	\$ 376,127.00	\$ 33,283.00	\$ 33,283.00	\$ 33,283.00	\$ 33,283.00	\$ 89,509.00	\$ 1,082,487.00

FRED SMITH - 15 YRS - 19 YRS @ NATIONAL

JAMES BOLZER - 13 YRS

CLARE BLANKENBETTER - 10 YRS

LOUISE NEIDER - 7 YRS

JOHN RYAN - 7 YRS

ALBERTY TAKERS - 3 YRS

ALBERTY TAKERS - 31 YRS

LINDA BROWN - 31 YRS

VONNE WOOD - 3 YRS

STEPHEN DENISON - 15 YRS

GEORGE TABASOVIC - 11 YRS

HENNIS KOMAN - 11 YRS

EDWARD PARCHELD - 3 YRS

EDITHA KOMAN

MARY BEARDS - 5 YRS

BERNARD POLLOCK - 5 YRS

PAUL KLINGE - 17 YRS

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPT OF PA I.T. EQUIPMENT COSTS

PHILADELPHIA

JOHN KATZ [Dept Service Officer]	\$1,800.00
ANTHONY PARKER [Assistant Dept Serv Officer]	\$1,800.00
ALFREDA ZABOROWSKI [Service Representative]	\$1,800.00
LINDA BROWN [Secretary]	\$1,600.00
VONIE WOOD [Clerk-Typist]	\$1,600.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Dept Service Officer]	\$1,800.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Secretary]	\$1,600.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Outreach Service Officer]	\$1,800.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Outreach Secretary]	\$1,600.00
TOTAL PHILADELPHIA OFFICE	\$15,400.00

ERIE

CLARKE BLAKESLEE [Assistant Dept Serv Officer]	\$1,800.00
AMBER MOORE [Secretary]	\$1,600.00
TOTAL ERIE OFFICE	\$3,400.00

ALTOONA

POSITION NOT FILLED [Dept Service Officer]	\$1,800.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Secretary]	\$1,600.00
TOTAL ALTOONA	\$3,400.00

COATESVILLE

POSITION NOT FILLED [Dept Service Officer]	\$1,800.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Secretary]	\$1,600.00
TOTAL COATESVILLE	\$3,400.00

WORMLEYSBURG

POSITION NOT FILLED [Dept Service Officer]	\$1,800.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Secretary]	\$1,600.00
TOTAL WORMLEYSBURG	\$3,400.00

GRAND TOTAL

	\$58,000.00
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PITTSBURGH

STEPHEN DENNISON [Dept Service Officer]	\$1,800.00
GEORGE TARASOVIC [P/T Asst Dept Serv Officer]	\$1,800.00
DENNIS KOMAN [Assistant Dept Serv Officer]	\$1,800.00
EDWARD FAIRCHILD [Assistant Dept Serv Officer]	\$1,800.00
EDWINA KOMAN [P/T Clerk]	\$1,600.00
MARY RHOADS [Clerk-Typist]	\$1,600.00
BERNADINE POLLOCK [Secretary]	\$1,600.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Dept Service Officer]	\$1,800.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Secretary]	\$1,600.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Outreach Service Officer]	\$1,800.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Outreach Secretary]	\$1,600.00
TOTAL PITTSBURGH OFFICE	\$18,800.00

WILKES-BARRE

FRED SMITH [Dept Service Officer]	\$1,800.00
JANIS BOLER [Secretary]	\$1,600.00
TOTAL WILKES-BARRE OFFICE	\$3,400.00

BUTLER

POSITION NOT FILLED [Dept Service Officer]	\$1,800.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Secretary]	\$1,600.00
TOTAL BUTLER	\$3,400.00

LEBANON

POSITION NOT FILLED [Dept Service Officer]	\$1,800.00
POSITION NOT FILLED [Secretary]	\$1,600.00
TOTAL LEBANON	\$3,400.00

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENTS OF PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES ESTIMATED NEEDS

	VETERANS SERVICE CHAIRMAN	VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE	WILKES-BARRE	PHILADELPHIA	PITTSBURGH	TOTAL
SALARIES:						
WILKES-BARRE OFFICE						\$ 52,000.00
PHILADELPHIA						\$ 128,000.00
PITTSBURGH						\$ 128,000.00
TOTAL SALARIES PER OFFICE:			\$ 52,000.00	\$ 128,000.00	\$ 128,000.00	\$ 306,000.00
PAYROLL TAXES:						\$ 44,000.00
EMPLOYEE GROUP INSURANCE:			\$ 7,740.00	\$ 22,800.00	\$ 20,788.00	\$ 51,328.00
GENERAL INSURANCE:			\$ 840.00	\$ 840.00	\$ 840.00	\$ 2,520.00
TRAVEL:	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 34,000.00
TELEPHONE:						\$ 20,000.00
POSTAGE & FREIGHT:			\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 3,300.00
EQUIPMENT RENTAL & REPAIR:			\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
STATIONERY, PRINTING & SUPPLIES:			\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 7,200.00
PENSION FUND:				\$ 2,200.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 4,000.00
SUNDRY: (PARKING & MISC.)					\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 70,880.00	\$ 162,140.00	\$ 168,728.00	\$ 193,748.00
GRAND TOTALS PER OFFICE:	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 70,880.00	\$ 162,140.00	\$ 168,728.00	\$ 499,748.00

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

	ALTOONA	BUTLER	CAMP HILL	COATESVILLE	ERIE	PHILADELPHIA	PITTSBURGH	WILKES-BARRE	LEBANON	TOTAL
SALARIES:										
Hospital Service Coordinator	\$ 18,000.00									\$ 18,000.00
Hospital Service Coordinator		\$ 18,000.00								\$ 18,000.00
Hospital Service Coordinator			\$ 18,000.00							\$ 18,000.00
Hospital Service Coordinator				\$ 18,000.00						\$ 18,000.00
Outreach Department Service Officer					\$ 32,000.00					\$ 32,000.00
Hospital Service Coordinator					\$ 18,000.00					\$ 18,000.00
Hospital Service Coordinator						\$ 18,000.00				\$ 18,000.00
Hospital Service Coordinator							\$ 18,000.00			\$ 18,000.00
Hospital Service Coordinator								\$ 18,000.00		\$ 18,000.00
Outreach Department Service Officer								\$ 32,000.00		\$ 32,000.00
Hospital Service Coordinator								\$ 18,000.00		\$ 18,000.00
Hospital Service Coordinator									\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
TOTAL SALARIES PER OFFICE:	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 226,000.00
EMPLOYEE GROUP INSURANCE:	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 56,000.00
PENSION FUND:	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
GRAND TOTALS PER OFFICE:	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 59,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 59,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 300,000.00

THE DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA PAYS \$17,000.00 EACH FOR 9 HOSPITAL SERVICE COORDINATORS
 REQUESTING STATE FUNDING OF \$18,000.00 EACH FOR 9 HOSPITAL SERVICE COORDINATORS
 RETIREMENT - \$18,000.00
 MEDICAL BENEFITS - \$108,000.00

AMVETS DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

	PHILADELPHIA	PITTSBURGH	TOTAL
NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER	\$32,000.00		\$32,000.00
STAFF SERVICE OFFICER	\$30,000.00		\$30,000.00
SECRETARY	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00
NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER		\$32,000.00	\$32,000.00
STAFF SERVICE OFFICER		\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
SECRETARY		\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
TOTAL SALARIES PER OFFICE:	\$87,000.00	\$87,000.00	\$174,000.00
BENEFITS	\$32,000.00	\$32,000.00	\$64,000.00
START UP (IT, Supplies, Etc.)	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
TRAVEL:	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00
GRAND TOTALS PER OFFICE	\$130,000.00	\$130,000.00	\$260,000.00

Michigan Data
(for comparison)

REPORTING PERIOD FOR FISCAL YEAR
OCTOBER 1, 2005 through SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

MICHIGAN VETERANS POPULATION AS OF JULY, 2005

820,485

VA EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

\$1,568,758,000.00

COMBINED SERVICES STAFF PERSONNEL

AL AMVETS CWV DAV JWV MCL MOPH PVA PLAV VFW VVA

115.5

STATE COST-COMBINED GRANTS OF 11 SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

\$3,912,200.00

RETURNS

Recoveries - 248,404,063.00

OR

\$63.00 for every \$1.00

Michigan Data

(for comparison)

RECOVERIES FOR FISCAL YEAR REPORTING PERIOD

OCTOBER 1, 2005 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

AMERICAN LEGION	\$ 59,286,924.00
AMVETS	\$ 12,428,830.00
CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS	\$ 1,417,888.00
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS	\$ 58,698,285.00
JEWISH WAR VETERANS	\$ 523,228.00
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE	\$ 16,334,980.00
MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART	\$ 18,985,294.00
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA	\$ 3,647,501.00
POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS	\$ 134,903.00
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS	\$ 59,152,614.00
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA	\$ 17,793,616.00
TOTAL	\$ 248,404,063.00